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[2016.06.13-06.14-Metro Monitor.xlsx](#)
[2016.06.13-06.17 Flint Michigan clips.xlsx](#)

Subject: Flint Readout 06/15/16

House Appropriations Committee Approved Funding Legislation

[U.S. House panel approves funding which could help Flint](#)

By Todd Spangler, Detroit Free Press 06/15/16 3:54 PM

The U.S. House Appropriations Committee on Wednesday approved legislation which could eventually provide millions more in additional funding to replace lead service lines and make other water infrastructure improvements in cities like Flint and across the nation. The legislation -- setting funding for federal interior, environment and related agencies -- also lets states use some federal money to provide debt relief to cities like Flint to forgive loans already made for water infrastructure. The legislation still must pass the entire House and go to the Senate for consideration.

[Lowey: EPA Funding Cuts Helped Lead to Flint](#)

By Asha Glover, Morning Consult 06/15/16

At a House Appropriations Committee markup on the interior and environment funding bill Wednesday, Rep. Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.) said cuts to the Environmental Protection Agency's budget helped lead to the water infrastructure issues Flint, Mich., is currently facing. The House's fiscal 2017 \$32.095 billion Interior and Environment Appropriations bill, provides \$64 million less in overall funding than the 2016 enacted level and \$1 billion less than the Obama administration requested. The EPA would face a \$164 million cut from this year's enacted level and \$291 million less than requested by the president. The bill also includes \$2.1 billion for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, \$50 million for the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation program and \$6.5 million for the EPA's Office of Water to help communities such as Flint, Mich., as they plan to replace pipes.

EPA fiscal 2017 budget faces cuts over Flint water crisis

By Jory Heckman, Federal News Radio 06/15/16 3:20 PM

The House Appropriations Committee dealt a significant budget blow to the Environmental Protection Agency on Wednesday as lawmakers debated the agency's role in the water crisis surrounding Flint, Michigan. The committee's spending bill for Interior Department agencies funds the EPA at \$7.98 billion for fiscal 2017, a \$164 million reduction of fiscal 2016 enacted levels and \$291 million below President Barack Obama's budget proposal.

USDA to provide extra food in Flint amid water crisis

By AP for Detroit News 06/15/16 12:04 PM

The U.S. Department of Agriculture plans to provide extra nutrition support to help low-income residents of Flint amid the city's crisis with lead-tainted water. Following a request from the state, the USDA says Wednesday its Food and Nutrition Service will provide additional nutrient-rich food to Flint-area recipients of The Emergency Food Assistance Program. Nutritious food can limit the effects of lead exposure. If consumed, lead can cause developmental delays and learning disabilities.

Lead-fighting foods headed to Flint amid water crisis

AP for Detroit Free Press 06/15/16 11:26 AM

The U.S. Department of Agriculture plans to provide extra nutrition support to help low-income residents of Flint amid the city's crisis with lead-tainted water. Following a request from the state, the USDA says Wednesday its Food and Nutrition Service will provide additional nutrient-rich food to Flint-area recipients of the Emergency Food Assistance Program.

Flint mayor concerned over KWA's potential cost

By Jim Lynch & Jacob Carah, Detroit News 06/15/16 7:17 AM

Mayor Karen Weaver is withholding her endorsement of a Flint move to the new Karegnondi Water Authority pipeline over concerns it will not lead to reduced water rates for city residents. That's an issue that was, supposedly, settled years ago when high-level state officials, acting as stewards for the financially troubled city, ran the numbers and determined a new regional system would be better for Flint than remaining with the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department. But Weaver, who was elected to her first term in November, continues to parse through decisions made before her arrival. "One of the other things we've talked about as far as KWA is we were led to believe water rates would go down," Weaver said in a meeting with the media Tuesday. "When we sit in meetings, we are hearing that's not the case, so we're going to do our due diligence on that one."

The Brains of Flint's Children, Imperiled by Lead, Could Still Escape Damage

By Ellen Ruppel Shell, Scientific American

Parents around the country have voiced alarm since the 2015 revelations of staggeringly high lead levels in the drinking water of Flint, Mich., and more recent reports of spikes in other cities and states. It is easy to understand why people are upset. "Children are particularly vulnerable to the neurotoxic effects of lead," states the World Health Organization on its Web site. It goes on: "Even relatively low levels of exposure can cause serious and in some cases irreversible neurological damage." After learning that Flint's water was tainted, some medical professionals have said the lead would permanently harm young brains and possibly other organs. Personal injury attorneys, pressing lawsuits, use phrases such as "irreparable damage" and "lead poisoning."

Flint River shelved as possible emergency water supply for city

By Ron Fonger, MLIVE 06/14/16 10:13 AM

The Flint River was the city's emergency water supply for decades but not anymore -- not even with Mayor Karen Weaver's second thoughts about the Karegnondi Water Authority. Key officials who met recently with Weaver, representatives of the state Department of Environmental Quality and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said they left the session with no doubt that those agencies no longer view the river as worth discussing as a potential backup source drinking water.

State money for Flint pipe section approved but stuck in limbo

By Gary Ridley, MLIVE 06/14/16 12:31 PM

Funding for a three-mile stretch of pipeline the city needs for its future drinking water supply has been included in the state's newest budget, but state officials are waiting on local leaders to make a decision before the funds can be used. Gov. Rick Snyder's spokeswoman Anna Heaton said money for the pipeline survived the budget-making process, but officials are waiting to see whether the city will stick with its original plan to join a new pipeline or stay with Detroit for water.

Aid and Donations

[Beyonce helps to provide \\$82,000 for Flint water crisis relief](#)

By Roberto Acosta, MLIVE 06/14/16 7:31 AM

Singer Beyonce has provided more than \$82,000 through the entertainment and management company she started in recent years. Ivy McGregor, director of philanthropy and corporate relations for Parkwood Entertainment, presented a check for \$82,234 to the United Way of Genesee County during a Monday event in Detroit -- ahead of Beyonce's show Tuesday at Ford Field -- to help in continued relief efforts amid the Flint water crisis.

[Beyonce Helps Raise \\$82,000 for Flint Water Crisis Ahead of Formation Tour Stop in Detroit](#)

By Alex Ungerman, Entertainment 06/14/16 11:23 AM

Queen Bey has secured a great deal of assistance for Flint, Michigan. Ahead of Beyonce's "Formation" tour stop in Detroit on Tuesday night, the singer's management company announced in a statement that \$82,234 would be donated to support the residents of Flint, Michigan, amid their ongoing water crisis. "We were pleased to announce the collective funds raised through our United Way relationship which allowed fans to donate online to the Flint water crisis at the point of purchasing Beyoncé Formation World Tour concert tickets," said Parkwood Entertainment director of philanthropy, Ivy McGregor.

Other News

[Victims of Flint water crisis sound off on lack of faith in government](#)

By Jiquanda Johnson, MLIVE 06/14/16 6:08 AM

For some Flint residents there are no assurances that they can trust when it comes to safe and clean drinking water. It doesn't matter what federal, state and local leaders say. Nor do they care if lead lines have been replaced at their homes - they won't drink the water. "These are people

that we put our trust in, you put your confidence and trust in these people and they constantly lie to you," said Flint resident Bishop Bernadel Jefferson. "Trust is earned. If you did something to lose my trust you have to earn it again. What they are trying to do is give people a false sense of hope."

Flint's top cop to get certification soon

By Steve Carmody, Michigan Radio 06/14/16

Flint Police Chief Tim Johnson will soon be certified to be a police officer. Johnson was appointed Flint's new police chief back in February. But the career cop allowed his state certification to lapse after he retired several years ago. Without that certification, Johnson lacked the arresting powers of officers under his command.

Waukegan District 60 looks into testing school water for lead

By Emily K. Coleman, Chicago Tribune 06/15/16 11:57 AM

As the list of Chicago schools where lead has been found in the water continues to grow, Waukegan School District 60 is looking into testing its own water. School board President Mike Rodriguez asked Tuesday evening for more information about what steps the district has been taking, echoing a concern that board member Anita Hanna has raised several times over the few months.

Lessons From Flint, Michigan's Water Crisis

By Ambar Espinoza, Rhode Island Public Radio 06/15/16 11:00 AM [radio clip]

As many as 100,000 people in Flint, Michigan were exposed to harmful concentrations of lead in the city's drinking water. In an attempt to save money, the city decided to disconnect from Detroit's water system and began to use water from the corrosive Flint River. Curt Guyette, the investigative reporter who broke the story, visited Rhode Island as part of an annual lecture series organized by the Metcalf Institute at the University of Rhode Island. He sat down with Rhode Island Public Radio environmental reporter Ambar Espinoza to talk about how he uncovered this public health crisis as a reporter for the ACLU in Michigan.

Physicians group: Test for lead in schools, day care

By Karen Bouffard, Detroit News 06/14/16 5:05 PM

The American Medical Association called Tuesday for routine lead testing in schools and registered day care centers in the wake of water problems in Flint that led to widespread lead exposure in children. The policy was adopted at the American Medical Association's annual conference this week in Chicago, where the nation's top physicians' organization also urged the elimination of lead-based pipes in the nation's water systems.

U.S. lead rule to stand till '17 despite Flint crisis

By Jim Lynch, Detroit News 06/14/16 3:44 PM

The federal law that regulates lead in water has long frustrated U.S. Environmental Protection Agency staffers, with one scientist alleging its lack of clarity opens the door to "wanton experimentation on the public," according to emails related to Flint's water contamination. Despite widespread agreement the law could be dangerous, however, a change isn't likely until 2017 at the earliest — highlighting the challenges of overcoming bureaucracy even after a public health crisis.

I-Team: Push for Mandatory Lead Testing at NY Schools as Districts Struggle With Inconsistent Response

By Pei-Sze Cheng, NBC 4 New York 06/14/16

Some lawmakers in Albany are pushing for mandatory lead testing at schools across New York after tests conducted independently by several Long Island districts revealed lead levels that one top scientist told the I-Team were worse than in Flint, Michigan. A bill pending in the New York state legislature would require all schools in the Empire State to conduct lead testing and provide funding for the examinations and to remediate any problems revealed in the results.

Independent firm to test water in Newton schools

By Ellen Ishkanian, Boston Globe 06/14/16

The city has hired an independent firm to do lead testing in each of the public schools and to track the data so it will be easy to retrieve and analyze in the future, Mayor Setti Warren said Monday. The testing, which will begin in the elementary schools, will include analysis of water from every drinking fountain in each school, as well as from a sampling of sinks, Warren said.

The announcement came after parents at the Burr Elementary School in Auburndale called for the independent testing and questioned the lack of information following disclosures that excessive lead levels were found in water at the school dating back to 1985.

Legionnaires Disease on Rise in US--2016 Update

By Laura A. Cooley, Medscape 06/13/16

Legionnaires disease has been in the news recently, with outbreaks in New York, Illinois, California, and Michigan. Despite these outbreaks garnering media attention, Legionnaires disease continues to be underdiagnosed. Legionellosis is a respiratory infection caused by Legionella bacteria; infection can manifest as either Legionnaires disease or Pontiac fever. Legionnaires disease is a common form of severe pneumonia requiring hospitalization, whereas Pontiac fever is a milder, influenza-like illness that generally resolves on its own. Among those who develop Legionnaires disease, about 10% will die of their illness. This case fatality rate tends to be higher among patients with healthcare-associated Legionnaires disease.

Opinions

Howes: Flint water wars pit law vs. political reality

By Daniel Howes, Detroit News 06/14/16 6:12 AM

Flint's water war is intensifying, if that's possible. Genesee County officials backing the new Karegnondi Water Authority are using news reports to warn that Flint could "lose everything" if Mayor Karen Weaver and the City Council turn their public second guessing into a real effort to bolt from the city's long-term contract with the authority. "We did get a raw deal," the mayor said in an interview on Mackinac Island. "We're looking at everything legally possible. A lot of us weren't there when all of the decisions were made. A lot of us don't have the history of how we got where we are."

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